

# Minutes of the TCCR Meeting

Miami, FL - November 6, 2000

The meeting was opened at 0830 at the AOML in Miami, Florida

Joan Brundage presented the agenda and indicated she wanted the meeting focused on technical issues. Bob Kohler, senior member of requested and modifications to the agenda. Non were presented and requested and modifications to the agenda. Kristina Katsaros Director of AOML gave an opening presentation of the AOML organization and summarized the major programs underway at the lab. She indicated AOML had many partners in science; industry, in addition to AOML had many partners in science; industry. Because all of these organizations need to connect bodies. Because all of these organizations need to connect the importance of the computing systems at AOML. She also stressed that she was in a NOAA type organization.

## Super Computing

Joan Brundage of FSL presented an overview of her laboratory and highlighted systems. She noted the progress of supercomputers. She noted the progress of supercomputers. She indicated which elements of the system were still in development.

Fire protection for the new laboratory was discussed and supercomputers in particular are undergoing major updates to their fire protection system. She also presented a summary of the projects of their supercomputer system.

Larry Lewis gave a briefing on the status of the new supercomputer at GFDL. He outlined the system design and presented general system specifications. The lab. had use a systems integrator. (Raytheon) to accomplish a major upgrade was, in general, being accomplished on schedule, with slight variances, and on the upgrade budget. Larry noted the SGI will be migrating their operating systems to LINUX, in the near future however, a specific schedule was not available.

The committee recognized the need to spread the knowledge of supercomputing and cluster systems. The committee proposed the following motion:

The chairman formally request the OAR CIO to work with NOAA whose goal would be to facilitate scientific understanding of supercomputing and cluster systems.

Motion made by Rich Beeler, seconded by Kevin Kelleher. After discussion, the motion was voted on and carried.

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scientistsscienists need a licscientists need a licence the Lab. scientists need a licence the Lab. should apply f  
license count.

The TCCR chairman will send a technical point of contact. The TCCR chairman will send a technical point of contact to Kean. Keane. Keane. This will allow a direct contact between the company and technical staff to resolve technical issues without the need to forward them via Ann Keane.

Nancy Soreide discussed (via telephone) the new Hot Items OANancy Soreide discussed (via telephone). This page will summarize any new OAR wide information orThis page will summarize any new C the labs. The data in the WEBthe labs. The data in the WEB page will be current for two weeks after whichthe However,past data will be storedHowever, past data will be stored in a searchable database. Hot Items c LOGINLOGIN page. RepresentativesLOGIN page. Representatives inLOGIN page. Representatives in each lab issuedissued at theissued at the laboratory level. The system interacts on the Web inissued at the laboratory level flexible.

The goal of the system is to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the number of elements.

OAR will publish an Outreach WEB site which can be used for OAR will publish an Outreach WEB site which important customer information. important customer information. The present relevant program information to their customers and to OAR Senior Manag present relevant program i are encouraged to watch their publication dates to avoid the are encouraged to watch their pub. is close to the two week site refresh date

The status of the new OAR financial system and the schedule and documents will be available on the PMEL WEB site 11/09/2000 at <http://www.pmel.gov/fdms>.

NSSLNSSL have used a number of Census computers to implement a coNSSL have used a number of Census Beowulf.Beowulf. There has been good initial acceptance ofBeowulf. There has been good initial acceptance testing now underway.

License updated. The following procedures should be performed on all computers.

Upgrading monitors for the Census computers. It is possible to upgrade monitors for the Census computers. The Saturn GL video card will support a number of monitors. The cards are priced from \$139 to \$179. Call 1-800-547-2349.

The migration to Netscape mail across OAR is running with both Netscape server and client. The operating NT. There are mixed successes and failures with all of the operating NT. There is that the Netscape server is more stable, independent of operating system, than the client.

Rich Beeler requested that the Western half of the country be supported other than Rich Beeler requested that the labs. labs. will consider his request and labs. will consider his request and a chanlabs. will consider his request notify the TCCR of the final resolution of the Western support lab.

The TCCR will organize a Netscape Administrators workshop in early 2001 to bring OAR administrators to discuss common problems and devise training programs. OAR wide help desk .

The members of the TCCR will forward to Nancy Huang their Labs. position on Cookies. If any, use the Lab makes of Cookies. The TCCR will consolidate their comments and forward as the OAR position on Cookies.

Kidwell indicated that the NOAA CIO organization has the basic structure of the DOC, or NOAA. The basic structure of the DOC, or NOAA. The approval seen as happening in the next quarter. A major concern of bebe IT security and he sees a major advance required in this area for NOAA. Funding, far has been very difficult to obtain in this and other areas offar has been very difficult to nothing has yet been finalized.

Kidwell discussed the future distribution of Census machines. He next spring with NOAA requesting 1000 units. next spring with NOAA with a system going to Boulder to be used deliver to the NOAA Silver Spring Campus.

**ORACLE** licenses. NOAA did not receive a competitive ORACLE license. NOAA did not request proposals from vendors concerned with the high dollar costs associated with Oracle's database software. INMIX submitted a proposal which did not support NOAA requirements, while INFORMIX submitted a proposal which seemed to solve some of NOAA's database requirements.

toto to be resolved with any vendor. It appears that a Commerce level license for large scale databto be resolved system will not be forthcoming.

ADOBEADOBE NOAA willADOBE NOAA will get discounts onADOBE NOAA will get discounts on o forfor ADOBE for ADOBE Arcobat. Bobfor ADOBE Arcobat. Bob indicates to call Sandy in his Office for price products.

CORELCOREL It appears that NOAA will not support a future COREL It appears that NOAA will not support CORELCOREL products. It appears that COREL products. It appears that weCOREL products. It appears that however, future COREL licenses should be done on a small group level.

KidwellKidwell encouraged he TCCR and OAR to put together other group buys. He indicated that his Office would try to support their needs.

DataData Centers Consolidation. OARData Centers Consolidation. OAR doesData Centers Consolidation. C NOAAData Centers Consolidation. The TCCR wNOAA Data Centers Consolidation. The TCCR w committee.

CITRIXCITRIX solution for CAMS. KidwellCITRIX solution for CAMS. Kidwell encourages NOAA s remote s CITIXCITIX solution. Nancy Huang indicated thatCITIX solution. Nancy Huang indicated that she wanted OA the standard NOAA Wide Area Network is too slow. Kidwell agreed.

KidwellKidwell stressedKidwell stressed the need forKidwell stressed the need for privacy statements on all OAR TCCR members to ascertainTCCR members to ascertain OAR compliance with the privacyTCCR members to a them to Kidwell s organization.

KidwellKidwell indicatedKidwell indicated this his organization is seriously evaluating Long DistanceKidwell in NOAA staff.. He encourages OAR to forward training needs to his staff. Nancy Huang will poll thethe TCCR for training needs and she will consolidate these needs anthe TCCR for training needs and she w organization.

### **Trouble Tickets - Help Desk**

KevinKevin Kelleher indicated thatKevin Kelleher indicated that NSSL had developed anKevin Kelleher indicated tackingtacking system. Kevin is willing to maketacking system. Kevin is willing to make the program availableta e-maile-mail him for a evaluation copy of the program. e-mail him for a evaluation copy of the program. Other sys TKREQ.

### **Next Meeting of the TCCR**

TheThe next meeting of the TCCRThe next meeting of the TCCR will beThe next meeting of the TCCR will be h The selected dates are the May 22 nd thru 24 th, 20001.

### **TCCR WEB Pages**

NancyNancy Huang and Jeremy Warren demonstrated a prototype of a nNancy Huang and Jeremy Warren dem site.site. The site provides useful links to items of interest for TCCR members. site. The site provides us as the posting medium for TCCR minutes and other important TCCR information.

Diane Davidowicz presented an overview of security issues that are the TCCR members. Lag times, time necessary to address security problems. The lag time is effected by staff unawareness of security attacks, and the ever forward

A copy of Diane s briefing will be available on the TCCR WEB site.

AA document summarizing the security and policies for the TCCR WEB site.

## Summary of Current OAR Headquarters Activities - Nancy Huang

Nancy summarized Roger Baker's visit to OAR headquarters and the key points associated with Nancy's restructuring and the IT review. Nancy's briefing will be available on the TCCR WEB page.

The TCCR agreed that one of the major areas necessary for continued high quality connectivity and high speed network systems is top quality connectivity and high speed network systems. The TCCR member is diverse and not coupled with other NOAA elements. The TCCR member funding strategy acceptable to Lab. directors and NOAA management without panic budget requests every three or four years.

The Charter for the IT Board The Charter for the IT Board iThe Charter for the IT Board is in draft form requests requests the members review the Charter, make suggestions as the TCCR Members feel requests the m and send them to Nancy. She will consolidate them and post a new draft on the TCCR WEB site.

To upgrade, with minimum cost from WIN/95/98 to NT 4.0, please  
800-0017 Ext 3418. The price for the upgrades is \$13.50 per copy.

AA working groupA working group composed of Joan Brundage, Bob Kohler, and WarrenA working group com  
outliningoutlining best practices for system management throughoutoutlining best practices for system managem  
strategystategy for acceptance and implementation. The dstrategy for acceptance and implementation. The do  
ReviewReview board for review before it is presented to theReview board for review before it is presented to the  
be released by mid December 2000.

Jeremy Warren presented the updated OAR Intranet page. A discussion arose and it was decided that [tccr@oar.noaa.gov](mailto:tccr@oar.noaa.gov) would be the only TCCR mail list at the headquarters mail server.

Idea to have an opportunity to work short periods in hIdea to have an opportunity to work short periods in hIdea to have an opportunity to work short periods in hprovide funding. Duration would be on a case by case basis (2 weeks - several months). E-maiprovide comments to Nancy. Specific projects would be best to work on.

Some labs have user groups where peopleSome labs have user groups where people who do planningSome labs h  
HQHQ attendsHQ attends regular staff meetings and ask for input. At NSSL, groups go to the IT group because they  
areare now aware that \$125K comes back to the lab. Consortiums have been built in orare now aware that \$1  
resources.resources. FSL has formal review process to reviewresources. FSL has formal review process to review  
AOML also has a committee to review proposals.

Discussion that scientists need to include Discussion that scientists need to include Discussion that scientists need to include  
directors have to be prepared to decline research proposals that do not allow for directors have to be prepared to decline research proposals that do not allow for  
costs (i.e. administrative, logistical, IT). It was suggested that we try costs (i.e. administrative, logistical, IT).  
template for OGP proposals.

Rich Beeler mentioned that he put together a spread sheet tRich Beeler mentioned that he put together expenditures for his lab. Still, manyexpenditures for his lab. Still, many of the expenses may be hidden. But, we areare managing IT well if ware managing IT well if we don tare managing IT well if we don t know how much purchasedpurchased evenby looking at object classes,purchased even by looking at object classes, because some lab LaborLabor is hard to keep track of because scientists do some IT work. Can we separateLabor is hard to keep track of ITIT labor? Should we just limit our IT reporting to the \$125K? ReportIT labor? Should we just limit our IT reporting to OAROAR should comeOAR should come up with a better method to report ourOAR should come up with a better IT Infrastructure support.

OAR has told Roger Baker that we would be involved early in the planning stages.

SEC scientists have developed tendency to hide IT costs. There used to be more SEC scientists have developed t  
moving toward less. They are moving toward less. They are moving away from standards. What CIO s of  
against them. Money goes to projects, not to support division.

## Web Server Survey

Tom DeFore spoke of products that are available to have a virtual front end, but each group would maintain control of their own servers.

## Adjournment

The TCCR meeting was adjourned at 1530 on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2000. The wishes to thank everyone for their wishes to thank everyone for their Committee also wish to sincerely thank AOMLCommittee also v  
of professional planning that made the meeting a success.